



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

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Shana Jones, Special Assistant
Daryl Fields, Public Affairs Officer
610 N.W. Loop 410
San Antonio, Texas 78216
(210) 384-7452

ADDITIONAL CHARGES HANDED DOWN IN AUSTIN BROTHEL CASE

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that a federal grand jury in Austin, Texas, this afternoon returned a superseding indictment in connection with the operation of an Austin, Texas, brothel. As a result of today's indictment, six more defendants were added to the existing charges and three of the defendants now face a money laundering charge.

On August 15, 2006, the federal grand jury returned the original four-count indictment charging Juan Balderas-Orosco, Bertha Jiminez (aka "Norma"), Francisco Castillo-Celaya, David Mendoza-Magana, Emilio Castillo-Celaya and Miguel Magdaleno-Gomez with Transportation for Prostitution; Coercion and Enticement for Prostitution; Conspiracy to Smuggle, Transport and Harbor Illegal Aliens; and, Importation of Aliens for Immoral Purpose.

The six new defendants charged with the above mentioned offenses include: Juan Magdaleno-Gomez, Israel Lozano-Martinez, Jose Cedeno-Zetina (aka "Antonio Cedeno-Zetina"), Mohammad Arami (aka "Mo"), Celia Maria Roberson (aka "Maria Perez" and "Lila") and Maria Camacho-Teran (aka "Sandra"). In addition, the superseding indictment charges Juan Balderas-Orosco, Mohammad Arami and Celia Maria Roberson with conspiracy to commit money laundering alleging that criminally derived proceeds from their alien smuggling efforts were used to pay rent for residential property in furtherance of their brothel operation. The superseding indictment also seeks the forfeiture of alleged criminally derived proceeds including a residence owned by Arami used to house the brothel operation at 9807 FM Road 969 and \$200,000 in cash.

"Smugglers who prey on the most vulnerable of our society must be confronted and stopped. The United States government will hold these people accountable for their crimes," stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton.

The indictment alleges that the defendants began this prostitution ring as early as November 13, 2002, and continued operating it until their arrest on June 29, 2006.

On July 29, 2006, search warrants were executed by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Internal Revenue Service on brothels operating in Austin, Dallas and Oklahoma City which catered to illegal aliens.

This case is an ongoing investigation of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Division and with assistance from local law enforcement and is being prosecuted on behalf of the government by Assistant United States Attorney Gerald Carruth. A superseding indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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